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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

(American Chemical Society News Service)

FROM an industrial standpoint the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Pittsburgh from September 4 to 8 will be one of the most important scientific gatherings ever held in this country. It will be of particular interest and value to the automobile industry. Among the important inventions which will be publicly described for the first time is a new zinc oxide, much smaller in particle size than any zinc oxide heretofore made, the work of Frank G. Breyer, chief of research for a New Jersey zinc concern. This pigment used in the tread of automobile tires gives almost twice the wear of tires containing ordinary zinc oxide.

Dr. Thomas Midgley, Jr., and T. A. Boyd, of Dayton, Ohio, will give a demonstration in Carnegie Hall of how various fuels detonate and explain how "knocking" may be reduced by the use of various compounds. Their work is of great importance, inasmuch as it probably will be the basis, in the future, of building automobiles of much greater power and increased efficiency in the use of fuel.

Nearly all the sixty-four local sections of the society, located in nearly all the states, will be represented at the meeting. From 1,500 to 2,000 chemists are expected to attend.

Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, who has just returned from Europe, where he attended the International Conference of Pure and Applied Chemistry, held at Lyons, France, the last week in June, says that European scientists are watching American research work with great interest, but that very few, if any, will attend the Pittsburgh meeting, as economic conditions, particularly on the continent, make it almost impossible for European chemists to travel. They, however, are keeping in close touch with American chemical progress through the literature of the society.

As an instance of the respect of European chemists for American procedure and methods, Dr. Parsons pointed out that the Commission on Nomenclature of Mineral Chemicals decided that the "Formula Index" printed in *Chemical*

Abstracts, one of the publications of the American Chemical Society, be the standard for scientific purposes the world over. Likewise, the abbreviations used in *Chemical Abstracts* were adopted as the standard by the Commission on Chemical Periodicals.

The chief address of the Pittsburgh meeting will be by Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, author of "Creative Chemistry," on "The constructive chemist." Dr. Slosson, who was for many years literary editor of *The Independent*, is now editor of *Science Service*, Washington.

Information received by the American Chemical Society indicates a tremendous increase, since the war, of interest in chemistry as a result of the work being done to explain in "every-day" language some of the achievements of this science. These results seem to be directly due to efforts of Dr. Edgar F. Smith, president of the society, to get American chemists to speak before clubs of men and women, social and business, throughout the country, and through the writings of such men as Dr. Slosson, Ellwood Hendrick, of New York, and others.

At the Pittsburgh meeting further steps to advance improved methods of teaching chemistry, from the high schools up, will be taken by the Section of Chemical Education, of which Dr. Smith is chairman.

EXHIBIT OF OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

ARRANGEMENTS are now being completed for the exhibit of optical instruments and apparatus to be held at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, in connection with the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America, October 26 to 28, 1922.

The leading manufacturers of optical equipment have already signified their intention of participating. However, the exhibit will not be limited to standard commercial types. Individuals and research laboratories are also invited to exhibit special research apparatus. Brief descriptions of instruments and their purposes supplied by the exhibitors will be printed in the program and published later in the minutes of the meeting in the *Journal* of the Optical Society. The exhibit of new apparatus will thus constitute just as definite a

contribution to science as a paper communicated to the meeting. The authors of papers communicated at this meeting are urged to supplement their papers by an exhibit of apparatus in case such an exhibit is suitable and practicable.

Exhibitors are urged to prepare their exhibits and descriptions so as to give them the maximum educational value.

Exhibits must be listed with the committee at the Bureau of Standards not later than September 20. Blank entry forms for this purpose may be obtained from Professor C. A. Skinner, chairman, Exhibit Committee, O. S. A., Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. Exhibits may be installed from October 24 to 25 and installation should be completed not later than noon, October 26.

IRWIN G. PRIEST,
Secretary

VENTILATING CODE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING AND VEN- TILATING ENGINEERS

THE code for the ventilation of public and semi-public buildings adopted by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers in 1915 has been submitted to the American Engineering Standards Committee for approval as the American standard.

This code was prepared by a committee of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers in response to requests from state commissions, legislative bodies, public health agencies and other organizations for suggestions to be used in the preparation of legislation and regulations regarding the heating and ventilation of buildings. The committee endeavored in this code to cover the general features most essential to the public health, in such a manner as to protect the public with the least possible expenditure for equipment and without unnecessarily limiting the methods of obtaining the desired results.

Section 1 of the code relates to general matters pertaining to all classes of buildings; the remaining three sections relate to schools and colleges, factories, and theaters, respectively.

Among the states that have utilized parts of the code in their regulations are: Illinois,

Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. A thoroughly representative special committee, including all the important organizations interested in the subject, has been appointed by the American Engineering Standards Committee to investigate the status of the code in the industry and the desirability of approving it. Sidney J. Williams, chief engineer of the National Safety Council, is chairman of this special committee.

The American Engineering Standards Committee would be glad to learn from those interested of the extent to which they make use of this code, and to receive any other information regarding the code in meeting the needs of the industry.

THE AQUARIUM OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

WE learn from *Nature* that the Council of the Zoological Society of London has approved a scheme for the establishment of an aquarium at the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park. The aquarium is to be built under the Mappin Terraces, but so installed as to be invisible from the front, and will not interfere with the panorama of the terraces. It will consist of a crescentic gallery, 400 feet long, lined with tanks on both sides. Those on the outer curve will have both daylight and electric illumination, while those on the inner curve will be lighted by electricity only, a method used at the Berlin Aquarium with complete success. The gallery will be divided into three parts—fresh water, marine, and tropical aquaria—with special ponds for seals, diving birds, and trout. The tanks are to be constructed with the bottoms, sides and backs of slate, and the fronts of polished plate glass set in a framework of white marble. They will be provided with rock-work arranged to suit the needs of their inhabitants. The water will be kept constantly circulating, flowing into the tanks from high-level reservoirs and thence through a series of underground filter-beds, on the plan of those in use at the New York Aquarium, to low-level reservoirs, from which it will be pumped by electric pumps to the high-level reservoirs again. Special arrangements are to be installed for heating the tanks and for regulating the